

ON THE JULY 29, 2004, OPENING CEREMONY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S GAMES AT THE SLOVENIAN CULTURAL GARDEN AND HONORING SLOVENIAN PROFESSOR METOD KLEMENC

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in commemoration of the International Children's Games being held in Cleveland this year. I also recognize the Games' founder, Professor Metod Klemenc of Celje Slovenia, who will be honored at the Slovenian Cultural Gardens in a ceremony to open up this year's Games.

I cannot think of a more appropriate person to honor in conjunction with the Games than Professor Klemenc, nor a better place to recognize the International Children's Games and Professor Klemenc than at the Slovenian Cultural Garden in Cleveland.

Metod Klemenc organized the first International Children's Games on June 5, 1968, in Celje. Born in Ljubljana, Slovakia, 70 years ago, Professor Klemenc is the spiritual father of these Games whose simple goal was bringing school age children from different nations to better understand one another. A Slovenian sports instructor, Professor Klemenc explained: "My childhood suffered from the 2nd World War. It destroyed my family. Since I—within my possibilities—wanted to create a better world based on friendship, sports seemed to be one of the best means to bring together young people from different countries. Therefore you need willpower and friends who are enthusiastic about sports, and who are willing to give up their spare time."

The Cleveland Cultural Gardens consist of 23 individual gardens, including the Slovenian Garden. The Gardens are an important part of the Cleveland's history, reflecting the ethnicities and cultures that were instrumental in the city's development. The symbolic meaning of the gardens is that people of diverse backgrounds, lifestyles, traditions, and religions can exist side by side in peace and harmony with the freedom to exercise their beliefs and cultures. Built in the 1920s and 1930s, these gardens stood for the unity among all people of all nations, and to this day remain a unique embodiment of that purpose.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate to open up the International Children's Games in Cleveland at a place in Cleveland that stands for international brotherhood and peace. And among these gardens, it is my pleasure to recognize the role Slovenians have played in building Cleveland, the Cleveland Cultural Gardens, and the International Children's Games. I ask you to join me in honoring Professor Klemenc, the founder of the International Children's Games.

IN HONOR OF THE CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S PARADE AND MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Christian Children's Parade and Multicultural Festival, which celebrated its 26 annual parade on Saturday, August 14, 2004, in Jersey City, New Jersey.

The Christian Children's Parade and Multicultural Festival is a wonderful opportunity to unite the community. For 26 years, the event has brought together family and friends to celebrate and encourage the spiritual development of Jersey City's youth.

This year's event was dedicated to remembering those lost during the September 11, 2001 attacks. The Jersey City community lost 37 residents on that tragic day. The parade and festival were a fitting tribute to the victims, which honored their memory and acknowledged not only the strength of the community, but also the surviving families and friends.

I would like to extend a special recognition to the Reverend Jose C. Lopez, the president of I.C.A.P., Inc., and his staff for all of their hard work and dedication in organizing this worthwhile event and making it a reality. Additionally, I extend my appreciation to the Jersey City Department of Cultural Affairs for sponsoring the festival and parade.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Christian Children's Parade and Multicultural Festival for its years of service and contribution to the youth of Jersey City, New Jersey.

ON THE PASSING OF FORMER RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONER HAL NORGARD

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend of mine, former Ramsey County Commissioner Hal Norgard.

Hal Norgard passed away on the morning of August 8th while I was traveling with a congressional delegation in Iraq.

Hal was a wonderful man and friend. He was a man of boundless energy and a great heart. Most of all, I remember him as a person who loved his community like it was his family—because it was for him.

Hal's work on the Ramsey County Board helped so many people, most of whom will never know how this very special man worked so hard to provide them with the opportunities they needed to improve their lives.

Hal was a friend, leader, volunteer, director, developer, teacher, and coach. Everyone who knew him loved him. I have many fond memories of him. We all have our own Hal story.

Hal, I will always remember you for your selfless service.

Hal, I will miss you.

CELEBRATING 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF "A TASTE OF POLONIA"

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise on behalf of more than 111,000 of my constituents who are of Polish descent in the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois on Chicago's northwest side. It is my privilege to recognize the 25th anniversary of one of the most celebrated cultural events and the pride of the Polish-American community in Chicago—A Taste of Polonia.

This year's anniversary event was held over Labor Day Weekend and featured hundreds of Polish handicrafts and artistic exhibitions, musical performances and other cultural displays. An abundant variety of Polish cuisine, including some of my personal favorites—kielbasa and pierogi—were enjoyed by tens of thousands of Chicagoans, including many who don't have Polish-American background but nonetheless wanted to join in the celebration and appreciate such an extraordinary assortment of food, music and art unique to "A Taste of Polonia".

Mr. Speaker, I also salute the Copernicus Foundation, a leading advocate for Polish-Americans in Chicago and throughout the country. The Foundation is a shining example of dedication to promoting our city's ethnic pride. It has hosted a variety of cultural, educational and civic programs, town meetings, political debates, live theater performances, concerts and films. It has been home to the Polish Film Festival in America since 1987. The Foundation has proven time and again its commitment to showcasing the many cultural and civic achievements of Polish-Americans and ensuring that they continue to flourish as demonstrated by its sponsorship of "A Taste of Polonia".

Today, it is especially important to reaffirm our appreciation and respect for Polish culture, particularly as the United States and Poland broaden a mutual partnership in the global economy and in fighting the global war against terror. Our special relationship with Poland exemplifies our mutual commitment to democratic ideals of liberty and human rights.

Mr. Speaker, "A Taste of Polonia" is a source of great pride for Polish-American citizens living in Chicago and indeed across the State of Illinois. I invite my colleagues to attend this celebration in the future and again congratulate all those who contributed toward another successful and joyous celebration of our city's Polish heritage.

JOHN MILLER, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the speech made on September 7 by John Miller, Ambassador-at-Large for the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. I hope that you find it compelling.

Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Thank you so much for your kind words, and even more for